## LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 72 STORIES

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Cuban Minister of Education, Jose Fernandez today characterized as "an infamous calumny and lie" a report carried in the Wall Street Journal that 2,000 Angolan students in Cuba had been expelled recently in connection with disorders which caused five deaths.

"There were no deaths because absolutely no disorders took place," the Cuban minister, a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, told Reuter.

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Fernandez declared that about 3,000 Angolan students have been studying in Cuba, most of them on the Isle of Youth to the south of the Cuban mainland. He said about 600 had returned to Angola for summer vacations.

"It is possible that an insignificant number of students, perhaps a dozen or two, will not want to return to Cuba because they have found it hard to adapt themselves or do not want to be so far from home," the minister said.

"But the vast majority of those on vacation will return and there have been no problems among the Angolans who are spending their summer in Cuba," he said.